

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 068556

40

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PA-03 PRS-01 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ P: AHROSEN: PP

4/12/73 EXT 22538

APPROVED BY EA/ P: AHROSEN

----- 057126

R 122215 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 068556

E. O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 12 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. ADMIN OFFICIALS TELL NYT' S BEECHER THAT HAIG' S REPORT
WILL PROVIDE FOCUS FOR PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ON C- F.
WH REPORTEDLY DEEPLY DISTURBED BY CONTINUING NVN ARMS
BUILDUP AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN SVN AND CAMBODIA SINCE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 068556

JAN. 27. " SENIOR ADMINISTRATION PLANNER" SAYS HAIG
MISSION WAS SIGNAL TO HANOI THAT PRESIDENT " FAST LOSING

PATIENCE." SENIOR RKG OFFICIAL DENIES CRISIS IN CAMBODIA AND IMPLIES AIRLIFT WAS US, NOT GKR, IDEA. FRIEDHEIM SAYS NVN BUILDUP NOW EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN PRIOR TO 1972 SPRING OFFENSIVE. ADMIN OFFICIALS FACE SERIOUS PROBLEM: THEY DON'T WANT TO DESTROY C- F, YET THEY FEEL SOME ACTION NEEDED PERSUADE DRV TO LIVE UP TO ACCORD AND DISSUADE IT FROM LAUNCHING SVN OFFENSIVE. POSSIBLE MOVES BEING CONSIDERED: URGENT DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS TO HANOI TO HALT ARMS FLOW INTO SVN; QUIET CONCURRENCE TO GVN SHIFT TO ACTIVE MILITARY MOVES AGAINST COMMUNIST CONCENTRATIONS IN SVN; ENCOURAGEMENT OF GVN FORCES TO CONVOY SUPPLIES TO PP; USAF TO ATTACK SAMS AND ARMS DEPOTS; RESUMPTION OF HEAVY BOMBING FOR LIMITED PERIOD AGAINST MILITARY TARGETS IN HANOI- HAIPHONG AREA.

2. CHITRIB REPORTS TODAY'S NSC MEETING NOT ON CAMBODIA, AND HAIG WILL NOT ATTEND. CSM REPORTS HAIG MADE SURPRISE SECOND PP VISIT WEDNESDAY. CBS NEWS, ACCORDING CSM, REPORTED HAIG HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY USING RVNAF IN CAMBODIA. POST'S MARDER NOTES PRESIDENT SPENT NIGHT AT CAMP DAVID WHERE HE OFTEN "WITHDRAWS" TO PREPARE MAJOR DECISIONS, BUT SAYS ZIEGLER DENIED ANY IMMINENT NEW CAMBODIA ANNOUNCEMENT. ACCORDING MARDER, SOME US EXPERTS SAY KHMER SITUATION SERIOUS AS SVN JUST BEFORE DIEM OVERTHROW. MARDER SAYS HANOI AND PEKING NOW HAILING SIHANOUK AS CENTRAL FIGURE IN ANY KHMER SOLUTION, AS PRINCE RECEIVES TRIUMPHAL WELCOME IN PEKING FOLLOWING REPORTED VISIT TO "LIBERATED" CAMBODIA. CHOU SAYS VISIT "SHATTERED TO SMITHEREENS" LON NOL'S CLAIM HE RULES CAMBODIA. SEN. HATFIELD SAYS HIS BELIEF KHMER SITUATION IS CIVIL WAR WAS NOT EFFECTIVELY CHALLENGED AFTER HEARING TARR TESTIFY (WP).

3. NYT'S FINNEY REPORTS HARVARD LAW'S BERGER, YALE'S BICKEL, AND KATZENBACH TELL SFRC PRESIDENT HAS NO AUTHORITY TO BOMB CAMBODIA. SIXTY SENATORS SUPPORT LEGISLATION REDEFINING AND LIMITING PRESIDENTIAL WAR POWERS; BUT CASE AND CHURCH RETREAT FROM PLAN TO PROHIBIT FURTHER US MILITARY ACTION IN INDOCHINA WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. BUT NO SENATOR PREPARED TAKE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 068556

ON PRESIDENT OVER CAMBODIA FOR FEAR ANY CHALLENGE TO HIS AUTHORITY MIGHT LATER BE CONSTRUED AS CAUSE OF "LOSS OF CAMBODIA" IF GKR FALLS. FULBRIGHT SAYS ROGERS' UNWILLINGNESS TO TESTIFY BEFORE SFRC IS "PRUDENT EVASIVENESS," AND ADDS HE HAS "TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO COME UP WITH SOME SPECIOUS LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR DOING EXACTLY WHAT IT WISHES."

4. AP REPORTS LON NOL HAS ASKED RVNAF HELP AGAINST COMMUNISTS IN CAMBODIA. HAIG MAY HAVE DISCUSSED REQUEST IN SAIGON, BUT NO DECISION LIKELY UNTIL THIEU RETURNS. THIEU COULD ARGUE THAT BY SENDING HIS FORCES INTO CAMBODIA HE DOING NO MORE IN BREACH OF C- F THAN COMMUNISTS. REPORTS COME ONLY FROM SVN SOURCES, SUGGESTING SAIGON ALREADY HAS SUCH PLAN IN MIND (SUN, TRIB).

5. POST' S GREENWAY IN PP REPORTS GKR PLANS CONVOY 140 TRUCKS WITH OIL FROM KOMPONG SOM. 189 TRUCKS AND 120 TRAILERS MADE IT INTO PP YESTERDAY BUT WITHOUT OIL. OVERALL KHMER MILITARY SITUATION SEEN AS GLOOMY. GREENWAY SAYS AS US AIR SUPPORT INCREASES, FANK DOES LESS AND LESS.

6. NYT PP REPORTS HIGH GKR OFFICIAL DOWN- PLAYS FUEL CRISIS, SAYING " WE ARE USED TO LIVING SIMPLY." GKR

SPOKESMAN SAYS MAIN GOAL OF HAIG TALKS WAS TO FIND - FORMULA TO GET THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIETCONG TO RESPECT" C- F. GKR CONTENDS THERE ARE MORE THAN 45,000 NVA IN CAMBODIA. WESTERN DIPLOMATS SAY NVA ADVISERS WORKING WITH OVER 40,000 KHMER COMMUNISTS WHO DOING MOST OF FIGHTING. ANOTHER KHMER OFFICIAL SAYS FUEL RATIONING NEEDED PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF SPECULATION AND BLACK MARKETING OF FUEL, AND ELECTRICITY PROBLEM NOT DUE TO FUEL SHORTAGE AS MUCH AS TO BREAKDOWNS OF ANTIQUATED GENERATORS.

7. ALL PAPERS FEATURE FRIEDHEIM BRIEFING ON NVA BUILDUP IN SVN. SUN' S CORDDRY REPORTS OFFICIAL CONSENSUS SEEMS TO BE THAT LARGE- SCALE ATTACKS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 068556

UNLIKELY BEFORE LATE THIS YEAR.

8. NYT' S FOX IN SAIGON REPORTS US SOURCE SAYS DESTROYED ICCS CHOPPER HAD BEEN ON COURSE AND FLYING UNDER DIRECTION OF VC NAVIGATOR. SURVIVORS ABOARD OTHER DOWNED CHOPPER SIGNED DOCUMENT FALSIFYING THEIR POSITION BECAUSE THEY FEARED VC WOULDN' T RELEASE THEM. VC CLAIMS CRAFT WERE 15 MILES OFF PRESCRIBED COURSE.

9. THREE ARVN OFFICERS RECENTLY RELEASED FROM COMMUNIST CAPTIVITY TELL OF LIFE OF HARD WORK, SCARCE FOOD AND MEDICAL NEGLECT BUT NONE OF SYSTEMATIC BRUTALITY REPORTED BY US POWS. FOURTH OFFICER WAS MISTAKEN AS AMERICAN AND SPENT MOST OF TIME IN NVN POW CAMPS WITH US POWS. WAS NOT TORTURED AS " AMERICANS SAY (THEY) WERE." MEN TELL STORIES TO GENERALLY UNDEMONSTRATIVE

AUDIENCE. VIET JOURNALIST TELLS POST' S LIPPMAN HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMEN TAKE PRISON BRUTALITY FOR GRANTED.

10. THIEU CONFERS WITH PARK IN SEO' L AND THANKS SOUTH KOREANS FOR THEIR SUPPORT DURING VN WAR (PHINQ).

11. TANAKA OPENS ECAFE' S 29 TH REGIONAL MEETING. ABOUT 500 DELEGATES FROM 30 MEMBER COUNTRIES PRESENT, INCLUDING U. S., SOVIET AND PRC. LAOS APPEALS FOR EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO REBUILD INDOCHINA. RETIRING SECGEN WARNS THAT ASIA' S UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE MAKING LITTLE ECONOMIC PROGRESS (UPI, NYDN).

12. STAR- NEWS' SHERMAN (APR. 11) SAYS ADMINISTRATION PREPARING MAJOR OVERTURE TO HANOI ABOUT CAMBODIA, BUT INITIATIVE AWAITS HAIG' S ASSESSMENT. ADMINISTRATION CONSENSUS IS THAT HANOI HOLDS KEY TO CAMBODIA C- F, AND TOP SOURCES SEE NVN HOLDING BACK ON AGREEMENT UNTIL

S SANCTUARIES AND SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE ARE BUILT UP ALONG SVN- CAMBODIA BORDER FOR POSSIBLE ATTACK AGAINST SAIGON. CITES ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREEN AS SAYING AT OVERSEAS WRITERS LUNCHEON THAT IF LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES, CAMBODIANS WOULD REACH COMPROMISE; BUT DOUBTING THAT NVN YET WANTS COMPROMISE OR NATIONAL UNITY IN UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 068556

CAMBODIA THAT MIGHT GO WITH IT. GREEN SAID LON NOL HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH OPPOSITION FACTIONS, BUT THINGS ARE STALLED BY INABILITY - OR UNWILLINGNESS - OF CONTENDING FACTIONS TO NEGOTIATE C- F THAT ALL WILL HONOR. GREEN EXPRESSED VIEW THAT COMMUNIST OCCUPATION OF PP AND OTHER URBAN AREAS WOULD DIVERT HANOI FROM ACHIEVING ITS REAL AIM - TAKING SVN. BELIEVES HANOI WANTS GOVERNMENT IN CAMBODIA SYMPATHETIC AND WEAK ENOUGH TO ALLOW NVN FREE RUN AGAINST SVN. ADDED COMPLICATION IS HANOI' S DISTRUST NOT ONLY OF SIHANOUK BUT OF PEKING' S DESIGNS ON CAMBODIA. GREEN FELT ALL- OUT HANOI PUSH INTO CAMBODIA - OR ITS SANCTIONING COMMUNIST TAKEOVER - WOULD DOOM ANY US MULTI- MILLION DOLLAR AID FOR NVN. JUDGED THAT HANOI HAD CHOSEN MORE PEACEFUL " POLITICAL ROUTE, TO POWER IN SVN, BUT ADDED THAT THIEU SEEMS PROVING MORE THAN MATCH FOR HANOI EFFORTS IN SOUTH.

13. S- N (APRIL 11) REFERS TO REPEATED COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON ICCS HELICOPTERS AND SYMPATHIZES WITH SHARP' S JUDGMENT THAT THERE IS VERY REAL QUESTION WHETHER WHOLE SUPERVISORY FORCE SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FORTHWITH. LATIMES (APRIL 11) SAYS THAT HOWEVER WEAK ICCS HAS BEEN IN PREVENTING MILITARY ACTIVITY, IT MAY BE ONLY MEANS

OF ASSURING THAT LARGE- SCALE CONFLICT WILL NOT RESUME.
VC CONTENTION THAT HELICOPTER ATTACK WAS ACCIDENT WILL
BEST BE VALIDATED BY WHAT HAPPENS SOON. IF TRUCE IS
TO WORK, ICCS MUST BE ALLOWED TO WORK.

14. GLOBE' S JHABVALA (APR. 11) INTERPRETS SIHANOUK' S
UNCOMPROMISING HANOI SPEECH AS CLEAR INDICATION THAT
NVN LEADERSHIP SUPPORTS SIHANOUK' S GOALS AND IS WILLING
HELP HIM WITH WEAPONS AND MANPOWER. QUOTES US
SOURCES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN CONTACTS BETWEEN ADMINIS-
TRATION AND NVN OFFICIALS TO RESOLVE CAMBODIAN
CRISIS AND EFFECT C- F. THEY EMPHATICALLY DENIED
SUGGESTIONS THAT US AIR SUPPORT IS TACIT COMMITMENT
TO MAINTAIN LON NOL GOVERNMENT. ON CONTRARY, THEY
EMPHASIZE THAT AIR STRIKES ARE DESIGNED TO SECURE US
MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN CAMBODIA AND TO WEAKEN NVN
POSITIONS ASTRIDE SVN BORDERS. ALSO SAID THERE IS
MUCH UNHAPPINESS WITHIN ADMINISTRATION OVER LON NOL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 068556

GOVERNMENT. ONE OFFICIAL ADMITTED HANOI RENEGED ON
LE DUC THO' S UNDERTAKING TO HAK THAT C- F WOULD FOLLOW
TWO WEEKS AFTER SIGNING OF PEACE AGREEMENT, BUT COULD
NOT EXPLAIN WHY, OR WHAT US WOULD DO IN RESPONSE
OTHER THAN CONTINUE BOMBING.

15. THIMMESCH (SUN) CHARACTERIZES INDOCHINA SITUATION
AS " SERIOUS MESS, NOT AN EMERGENCY." HANOI HAS PEACE
SETTLEMENT AND US CANNOT AND WILL NOT SEND TROOPS BACK
INTO SVN. HANOI' S AMBITION IS STILL SAIGON, AND ROAD
TO SAIGON COULD GO THROUGH LAOS AND CAMBODIA. YEARS
OF BOMBING DID NOT DESTROY COMMUNIST APPARATUS, AND
ONLY MOST C

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 07 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE068556
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/ P: AHROSEN: PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730460/abqceigx.tel
Line Count: 253
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971229
Subject: APRIL 12 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, US, XC
To: SAIGON INFO BANGKOK
PHNOM PENH
VIENTIANE
CANBERRA
WELLINGTON
LONDON
MOSCOW

TOKYO
BUDAPEST
SEOUL
JAKARTA
OTTAWA
WARSAW
MANILA
CINCPAC
JEC PARIS
PARIS

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005